

AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 5 and 15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 11 and 19 are currently amended, and claim 21 is newly presented.

1. (Currently Amended) An iron head for a golf club including a head body made of a metal and having a hosel part, and a plate-like face body welded to the head body and made of a metallic material different from the metal of the head body, the plate-like face body having first through fourth peripheries arranged adjacent to toe, heel, top, and sole portions of said head body, respectively, comprising:

a means for defining a cavity portion between said plate-like face body and a back part of said head body, said cavity portion being defined so as to extend in said head body from a first position adjacent to the toe portion of said head body to a second position adjacent to a heel end of said head body, said second position being remote from said secondary periphery in a direction toward said heel end of said head body, said head body having a receipt portion thereof provided for receiving a rear face portion of said plate-like face body adjacent to said second periphery, ~~and~~ said receipt portion having a length equal to or less than one fourth of a length of said second periphery, and said second periphery being positioned in a specified position wherein a golf ball is prevented from coming into direct contact with said second periphery even when said golf ball is in contact with both a surface of said hosel part and a surface of said plate-like face body apart from said second periphery simultaneously.

2. (Original) An iron head as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plate-like face body is made of a metallic rolled plate, which has a higher strength than that of a metal of which said head body is made.

3. (Original) An iron head as set forth in claim 2, wherein said metallic rolled plate of said higher strength is made of a β type titanium alloy or a maraging steel.

4. (Original) An iron head as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plate-like face body and said head body are connected together by welding using laser-beam.

5. (Canceled) ~~An iron head as set forth in claim 1, wherein said periphery of said plate-like face body on the heel side is located to be in no contact with a ball when the ball comes into contact with a specified portion of said iron head, which extends between the surface of a face part of said iron head and the surface of the heel part of said iron head, during shots by said iron head.~~

6. (Original) An iron head as set forth in claim 1, wherein said cavity portion extending between a rear face of said plate-like face body and a back part of said head body is formed to be fluidly communicated with a shaft receipt hole provided in said hosel part of said iron head.

7. (Original) An iron head as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plate-like face body is arranged to extend over the entire width of said head body in a vertical direction.

8. (Original) An iron head as set forth in claim 1, wherein a thickness of the heel part of said head body at its portion confronting an end face of said periphery of said plate-like face body on the heel side is made larger than that of said face body.

9. (Original) An iron head as set forth in claim 8, wherein said plate-like face body is made of marageing steel, and said head body is made of seventeen-four stainless steel containing 17% chromium, 4% nickel, 4% copper, and 1% niobium.

10. (Original) An iron head as set forth in claim 9, wherein the thickness of said portion of said heel part is made approximately 0.2 through 1 mm larger than that of said plate-like face body.

11. (Currently Amended) An iron head for a golf club including a head body made of a metal and having a hosel part, and a plate-like face body welded to the head body and made of a metallic material different from the metal of the head body, comprising:

a means for defining a cavity portion between said plate-like face body and a back part of said head body, said cavity portion being defined so as to extend to a position remote from a periphery of said plate-like face body located on the side of said heel of said head body, ~~and further, a receipt portion of said head body provided for receiving a rear face of said plate like face body located on the side of said heel having a length thereof extending along said periphery of said plate like face body located on the side of said heel and being equal to or less than one forth of a length of said periphery of said plate like face body located on the side of said heel,~~

wherein said periphery is positioned such that a golf ball is prevented from contacting said periphery when a golf ball is in contact with both a surface of said hosel part and a surface of said plate-like face body, and

wherein said cavity portion extending between a rear face of said plate-like face body and a back part of said head body is formed to be fluidly communicated with a shaft receipt hole provided in said hosel part of said iron head.

12. (Previously Presented) An iron head as set forth in claim 11, wherein said plate-like face body is made of a metallic rolled plate, which has a higher strength than that of a metal of which said head body is made.

13. (Previously Presented) An iron head as set forth in claim 12, wherein said metallic rolled plate of said higher strength is made of a β type titanium alloy or a maraging steel.

14. (Previously Presented) An iron head as set forth in claim 11, wherein said plate-like face body and said head body are connected together by welding using laser-beam.

15. (Canceled) ~~An iron head as set forth in claim 11, wherein said periphery of said plate-like face body on the heel side is located to avoid contact with a ball when the ball contacts with a specified portion of said iron head, which extends between the surface of a face part of said iron head and the surface of the heel part of said iron head.~~

16. (Previously Presented) An iron head as set forth in claim 11, wherein said plate-like face body is arranged to extend over the entire width of said head body in a vertical direction.

17. (Previously Presented) An iron head as set forth in claim 11, wherein a thickness of the heel part of said head body at its portion confronting an end face of said periphery of said plate-like face body on the heel side is made larger than that of said face body.

18. (Previously Presented) An iron head as set forth in claim 17, wherein said plate-like face body is made of maraging steel, and said head body is made of seventeen-four stainless steel containing 17% chromium, 4% nickel, 4% copper, and 1% niobium.

19. (Currently Amended) A golf club head, comprising:

a head body made of metal;

a hosel part; and

a plate-like face body made of a metallic material different from the metal of the head body, wherein one periphery of the plate-like face body is positioned such that a golf ball is prevented from contacting the one periphery when the golf ball is in contact with both a surface of the hosel part and a surface of the plate-like face body, and the plate-like face body defines a cavity portion with the head body, the cavity portion extending beyond a vertical edge of the plate-like face body adjacent to the hosel part.

20. (Previously Presented) A golf club head according to claim 19, wherein the head body has a receiving portion adjacent to the vertical edge of the plate-like face body, and the receiving portion has a length less than about one fourth of the length of the edge of the plate-like face body.

21. (New) A golf club head according to claim 19, wherein a through-hole within a back part of the head body extends into the cavity portion.